

JUNE 19, 2003

Senate FY 04 Labor, Health and Human Service (HHS), and Education Appropriations Bill is Currently Being Drafted

Your Help is Necessary to Secure Needed Increases in Older American Act (OAA) Program Funding for Next Year

Your Senator is a member of the Senate Labor, HHS, and Education Appropriations Subcommittee, the Committee with jurisdiction over annual funding of the Older Americans Act. The Subcommittee has tentatively scheduled a Fiscal Year 2004 (FY 04) appropriations bill mark-up for next Thursday (6.26). Over the next several days the Subcommittee Chairman, Senator Specter (R-PA) and the Ranking Member, Senator Harkin (D-IA) will be determining the appropriations levels for the Older Americans Act. Earlier today the House Labor, HHS, Subcommittee mark-uped its' FY 04 Appropriations bill and aside from a \$13 million increase in the National Family Caregiver Support Program, OAA programs were relatively flat funded.

Your help is needed to increase funding for the Older Americans Act (OAA). One of n4a's top legislative priorities is to increase all OAA programs and services appropriations by 10% in FY 04. Traditionally, the Senate Appropriations Committee includes more generous appropriations for OAA programs than the House. The higher the Senate Appropriation amounts for OAA programs in FY 04 the better the chance of retaining these increases when the two chambers come together to develop a unified appropriations bill. **Your grassroots support is needed now to help enlist support on the Labor/HHS/Education Subcommittee to fight for a minimum increase of 10% for the OAA.**

**MEMBERS OF THE SENATE LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
AND EDUCATION SUBCOMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS**

Republicans

Senator Thad Cochran, 202.224.5054
Senator Judd Gregg, 202.224.3324
Senator Kay Hutchison, 202.224.5922
Senator Larry Craig, 202.224.2752
Senator Ted Stevens, 202.224.3004
Senator Mike DeWine, 202.224.2315

Democrats

Senator Ernest Hollings, 202.224.6121
Senator Daniel Inouye, 202.224.3934
Senator Harry Reid (NV), 202.224.3542
Senator Herb Kohl, 202.224.5653
Senator Patty Murray, 202.224.2621
Senator Mary Landrieu, 202.224.5824

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

- 1. Call your Senator at the number listed above (or a district office) and ask him/her to encourage Senators Specter and Harkin to include a minimum increase of 10% in Older Americans Act funding in the FY 04 Labor, HHS, Education Appropriations bill.**
- 2. Contact all other stakeholders, advocates and constituents in your state and urge them to contact their Senator as well with the same message.**
- 3. Let the n4a office know the results of communications you have with Senate offices. Contact smcdermott@n4a.org.**